Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 A-01 SY-05 CPR-01 /086 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:GWCHAPMAN:RAH APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY EUR:GSVEST

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P R 041744Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, CY

SUBJECT: DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS--AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALL ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ

1. CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ AFTERNOON AUGUST 3 TO INFORM USG OFFICIALLY OF DEATH OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS. NIMETZ EXPRESSED APPROPRIATE CONDOLENCES. DIMITRIOU URGED THAT USG BE REPRESENTED AT AUGUST 8 FUNERAL SERVICES AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL, POINTING OUT THAT SUCH A GESTURE WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED BY CYPRIOT PEOPLE. COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT COMPOSITION OF US DELECONFIDENTIAL

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GATION HAD NOT YET BEEN FIXED.

2. AFTER SHARING PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF MAKARIOS, DIMITRIOU TURNED TO QUESTION OF SUCCESSION. HE NOTED THAT KYPRIANOU'S FRAGILE HEALTH MADE EVEN HIS CONTINUED TENURE AS ACTING PRESIDENT QUESTIONABLE. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED BY NICOSIA THAT PARTY LEADERS ON

CYPRUS HAD DECIDED NOT TO HOLD SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PRESIDENCY WITHIN 45 DAYS AS CALLED FOR IN CONSTITUTION, BUT RATHER TO WAIT UNTIL REGULARLY-SCHEDULED ELECTION NEXT FEBRUARY. IF HIS HEALTH PERMITTED, KYPRIANOU WOULD SERVE AS ACTING PRESIDENT UNTIL THEN.

3. AS HE TOOK HIS LEAVE, DIMITRIOU EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE US WOULD KEEP AN EYE ON TURKEY AND NOT ALLOW IT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNSETTLED POLITICAL SITUATION ON CYPRUS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS--AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALL ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ

TAGS: PGOV, CY, (MAKARIOS III)

To: NICOSIA Type: TE

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